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PATUZYUW RHEGNO00031 2502300-0000--RHEGGTN.

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P 072259Z SEP 78

FM USDOE NV ROGER RAY ASST FOR PACIFIC OPERATIONS LAS VEGAS NV
TO RHEGGTN/USDOE T F MCCRAW WASH DC

RUHGSAA/HON ADRIAN WINKEL HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN

RUHGSAA/OSCAR DEBRUM DISTAD MARSHALLS MAJURO

INFO RUHVAAA/USDOE W J STANLEY DIR PASO HONOLULU

RUPIPJ/USNS WHEELING TAGM-8

AE

BT

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RADIATION EXPOSURE AT BIKINI. WE DO NOT EXPECT THAT
MEDICAL VISITS WILL NEED TO BE EXTENDED TO ANY OF
THE OTHER ATOLLS WE ARE SURVEYING.

(SPECIAL ADDITIONAL TEXT FOR ENEWETAK/UJELANG:
AFTER THE RESETTLEMENT OF PEOPLE ON ENEWETAK, WE
DO PLAN TO PERIODICALLY MEASURE THE RADIOACTIVE
MATERIALS THAT PEOPLE ARE ADSORBING. THIS WILL
BE DONE BY NON-INTRUSIVE TECHNIQUES KNOWN AS IN-VIVO
COUNTING AND BIO-ASSAY. THE PURPOSE WILL BE TO
ASSURE THAT THE DIET AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ARE

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TO SOME OTHER CAUSE. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY OF THE LIKIEP PEOPLE RECEIVED AN EXPOSURE TO RADIATION SUFFICIENT TO BE THE CAUSE OF THYROID DISORDER.

Q.12. DOES THE COLLECTION OF FOOD ITEMS SUCH AS FISH AND COCONUT INDICATE THESE ARE NOT SAFE TO EAT?

A.12. NO. WE ARE COLLECTING THESE SAMPLES AND THE SAMPLES OF SOIL AND WATER IN ORDER TO GET THE MOST COMPLETE PICTURE WE CAN OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH PEOPLE OF THE NORTHERN MARSHALLS ARE LIVING. THERE IS RADIATION EVERYWHERE AND OUR PURPOSE IS TO VERIFY THAT THE RADIATION LEVELS IN YOUR FOOD PRODUCTS ARE WITHIN ACCEPTABLE LIMITS.

Q.13. WHEN WILL THE RESULTS OF THESE SAMPLES BE KNOWN?

A.13. THE LABORATORY RESULTS WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE FOR MANY MONTHS, BUT THE MEASUREMENTS WE WILL MAKE WHILE WE ARE HERE WILL GIVE A GOOD INDICATION OF WHETHER THERE IS ANY REASON TO BE CONCERNED. IF THERE IS ANY SUCH INDICATION WE WILL GIVE SPECIAL PRIORITY ATTENTION TO ANALYSIS OF THE LOCALLY PRODUCED FOODS.

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Q.14. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF DIGGING PITS IN THE GROUND?

A.14. PITS WILL BE DUG FOR TWO PURPOSES. WE NEED TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF THE SOIL BELOW THE SURFACE, WHERE THE ROOTS GET THEIR NOURISHMENT. WE ALSO NEED TO OBTAIN SAMPLES OF THE GROUNDWATER WHICH MAY BE USED FOR COOKING AND DRINKING AND WHICH MAY ALSO BE TAKEN UP BY THE FOOD CROP PLANTS.

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